

# Financial Aid News

## WASHINGTON HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD

Issue 50 — August 5, 2005

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### Becki Collins Accepts New Position with Pierce College District

#### Becki has left the building

After almost eight years as the director of student financial assistance, Becki Collins has left the HECB. This month, she will become Vice President of Administrative Services for the Pierce College District, which operates community colleges at Fort Steilacoom and Puyallup. Becki came to the HECB in October 1997 from Pierce College, where she had served 10 years as director of finance at the Fort Steilacoom campus.

"Becki's departure marks a watershed event for me," said Jim Sulton, HECB executive director. "During my tenure at the HEC Board, it has been a tremendous advantage to have outstanding professionals in place who exemplify by their demeanor and actions how we can put students first. Becki provides a great example of how leadership and conviviality combine to create a first class student-centered organization. To say the least, she will be missed."

Collins said, "I have deeply appreciated the opportunity to do meaningful work on behalf of students. I also enjoy all the wonderful relationships—both professional and personal—that I have developed with my financial aid colleagues."

Applications are currently being reviewed for the position of **Director of Student Financial Assistance**, but the position is open until filled. For more information, contact the Higher Education Coordinating Board at 360-753-7800.

## **2005 WFAA summer workshop wrap-up**

Many institutions were not represented at the recent Washington Financial Aid Association workshops in Spokane and Seattle. To make sure financial aid administrators remain aware of current state aid issues, we have posted a version of the HECB workshop presentation on our Web site at:

<http://www.hecb.wa.gov/news/newsmanuals/newsmanualsindex.asp>.

Also available is a presentation on the new procedure that will be piloted this fall related to the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation and public higher education institutions exchanging student information via the HECB secure web site (see next article).

Neither of these can fully duplicate the details speakers added at the workshops, but they will provide general background and may prompt you or your staff members to talk with us further about these issues.

## **State Need Grant pilot project for part-time students begins this fall**

The HECB is moving forward with implementation of House Bill 1345, which passed the Legislature during the last session. The bill initiates a pilot project to serve students who are State Need Grant eligible but enrolled for only four or five credits. Up to ten selected schools may offer Need Grant awards to these students beginning fall 2005. Participating institutions will be allocated a portion of the \$250,000 appropriated for the pilot program.

The Legislature has directed the board to assess the need for the program, and the funding requirements necessary to expand eligibility to the general population of less than half-time students. A report is due to them in December 2006.

The HECB previously solicited volunteers and several schools have expressed interest. We will be contacting them shortly and scheduling a meeting to be held later this month to further develop the operational details of the pilot program. If you have not volunteered and would like to do so, please contact John Klacik at [johnk@hecb.wa.gov](mailto:johnk@hecb.wa.gov) or 360-753-7851.

## **New DVR pilot procedure beginning soon**

**Participating offices will be in Bellingham, Lacey, Tacoma, and Yakima**

The new electronic information-sharing procedure between financial aid offices and counselors for the Department of Social and Health Services' Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) is almost off the ground. Beginning in the next couple of months, a number of public colleges and universities will begin getting DVR client information via the HECB secure Web site.

Only selected DVR offices will be participating in the pilot program – in Bellingham, Lacey, Tacoma, and Yakima – so institutions in those areas are more likely to receive student information via the new system.

Presentations on the procedure were given at the WFAA summer training sessions, and handouts were distributed at the HECB spring workshops. Materials are available at: <http://www.hecb.wa.gov/news/newsmanuals/newsmanualsindex.asp>.

### **Future Teachers Program now accepting applications**

**Materials must be received by October 14, 2005**

The Future Teachers Conditional Scholarship and Loan Repayment Program received funding for 2005-07, and will be making awards this fall. The program is aimed at encouraging outstanding students and paraprofessionals to become teachers and help current teachers obtain additional endorsements in teacher shortage subjects. The application deadline is **4:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 14, 2005**.

For more information, or to view application materials, please visit the program's Web site at: [www.hecb.wa.gov/teachers](http://www.hecb.wa.gov/teachers).

### **SWS 2005-2006 Incentive Grants have new name, earlier deadline**

**Deadline moved up to August 31, 2005**

What were formerly known as State Work Study (SWS) "Administrative" grants are now "Incentive" grants. Incentive Grants – usually between \$3,000 and \$5,000 – help colleges administer their work study program. In response to administrators' requests, this year's application cycle will begin earlier in order to allow more time to implement grants and achieve desired outcomes.

A request for proposals (RFP) was **e-mailed** July 20 to all institutions participating in the SWS program. **The deadline for submission of proposals is 5 p.m. Wednesday, August 31.**

The board expects to make decisions on funding grants by Sept. 30. The RFP is available online at: <http://www.hecb.wa.gov/financialaid/sws/swsindex.asp>.

Institutions can use grant funding in a variety of areas, as long they do not replace current institutional administrative support. The HECB strongly encourages institutions to consider partnering with other colleges or universities by submitting a joint application for activities that will support the SWS program across a broad geographic region. Grant activities must be completed and final reports and billings submitted no later than June 23, 2006.

For questions about the Incentive Grants, contact Jeffrey Powell at (360) 704-4150 or Betty Gebhardt at (360) 753-7852.

## Senate funding proposal approved by fiscal subcommittee

The U. S. Senate subcommittee that oversees higher education appropriations has approved a Fiscal Year 2006 spending bill. Unlike the budget requested earlier this year by President Bush (see [Financial Aid News 02/15/05](#)), the Senate subcommittee has carried over funding for most federal student aid programs. Some highlights:

- Funding is provided to cover the Pell Grant shortfall, but the maximum grant would remain at \$4,050 **for the 2005-06 academic year**.
- Supplemental Education Opportunity Grants would receive an increase of \$26 million, for a total of \$804.8 million.
- TRIO, LEAP, and GEAR UP would remain funded at the FY 2005 levels of \$836.5 million, \$65.6 million, and \$306.5 million, respectively.
- No new federal capital contributions were appropriated for the Perkins Loan program.

The House of Representatives recently approved a similar budget.

A copy of the Senate committee's new release can be found online at:  
<http://appropriations.senate.gov/hearmarkups/07-12-05PRLaborHSub.htm>.